Nationally Designated Historical Site Uchima-udun

The Uchima-udun is a ritual facility at the center of the temple founded in the ruins of the former house of Kanamaru (the future King Sho En), founder of the second dynasty of the Ryukyu Kingdom. Kanamaru was recognized by Prince Goeku (the future Sho Taikyu) in 1454, and with the coronation of Sho Taikyu, he was appointed lord of Uchima Village in Nishihara, where he lived until his coronation as King Sho En in 1470.

In the 1660s after the death of Sho En, the former home of Sho En was turned into sacred ground on the advice of Haneji Choshu, as a place associated with the second dynasty, and an eastern temple with a thatched roof was built. Then on the northern side of the Agarie-udun, the populace built a western temple with a thatched roof.

In the age of Sho Kei, the thirteenth king, stone walls replaced bamboo walls, and the site was completed as a sacred place of the Ryukyu Kingdom with the construction of a monument to the homes of the former kings and a framed inscription by Sho Kei.

After the abolition of the Ryukyus, the people of Kadekaru increased their veneration of Uchima-udun as an object of ritual, and the descendants of the guardians of the Agarie-udun and Irie-udun restored them and the Uchima-udun became the village temple rather than the national temple. Although they were significantly damaged in the Battle of Okinawa, the stone walls from the period of the Ryukyu Kingdom survived, and the Agarie-udun and Irie-udun were restored through the voluntary cooperation of the local people.

In this way, the historical importance of the Uchima-udun can be traced through three centuries. Built in the age of Haneji Choshu and Sai On, it was established as a national sacred place, it played a part in the rituals of temple guardians and priestesses, and it was maintained through the voluntary support and cooperation of the local people. This is a unique feature with no similar examples in other historical sites in Okinawa.







